

AMENDMENTS OF THE DRAWINGS

The attached two (2) replacement sheets of amended drawings and two (2) annotated sheets include changes to FIGS. 1A, 1B, and 3. The replacement sheets (1/7) and (3/7) should replace sheets (1/7) and (3/7), as originally filed and as presented in the formal drawings filed June 30, 2004. In the amended drawings filed herewith, the following amendments have been made which are also indicated on the annotated drawings also filed herewith:

- (1) FIGS. 1A and 1B have been labeled as "PRIOR ART" as suggested by the Examiner in the pending Office action; and
- (2) the signal transmitted to the non-inverting input of amplifier 14 in FIG. 3 has been changed from "V_E" to "V_F" in accordance with the specification at page 6, lines 16-20.

Attachments: Two (2) Annotated Sheets (1/7) and (3/7); and Two (2) Replacement Sheets (1/7) and (3/7).

REMARKS

I. Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-20 were pending.

FIGS. 1A-1B and 2A-2D were objected to for not being designated as "Prior Art."

The specification and FIG. 3 were objected to for containing various informalities.

Claim 12 was objected to for minor clerical errors.

Claims 12-14 and 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nercessian U.S. Patent No. 3,623,140 ("Nercessian").

Claims 1-11 have been allowed.

Claim 15 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable subject matter was indicated.

II. Summary of Applicant's Reply

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-11 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 15. Applicant hereby expressly reserves the right to rewrite claim 15 in independent form should its base claim ultimately not be allowed in view of the arguments set forth herein.

Applicant has amended FIGS. 1A-1B, FIG. 3, and the specification in order to correct minor clerical errors.

Applicant has amended claims 12, 14, 15 and 20 in order to more particularly define the claimed invention and has canceled claim 19. No new matter has been added and the amendments are fully supported by the originally-filed specification.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's objections and rejections. Applicants respectfully submit that Nercessian does not show or suggest all the limitations defined by applicant's claimed invention.

III. Response to the Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to FIGS. 1A-1B and 2A-2D for not being designated as "Prior Art."

Applicant has amended FIGS. 1A and 1B to provide "Prior Art" designations. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the objection to FIGS. 1A-1B be withdrawn.

Applicant has not amended FIGS. 2A-2D because FIGS. 2A-2D do not illustrate prior art. Rather, FIGS. 2A-2D illustrate "graphs of various relationships that ... the **present invention** may enforce between a master signal and output voltages of slave supplies" (specification, page 5, lines 3-6, emphasis added). "FIG. 3 illustrates a first embodiment of ... the **present invention** that controls the output voltage of a slave supply in such defined relationships to a master signal." (emphasis added; specification, page 6, line 3-7) Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the objection to FIGS. 2A-2D be withdrawn.

IV. Response to the Objections to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification and to FIG. 3 for containing various informalities.

Applicant has amended the specification to recite the U.S. Patent Number corresponding to the patent application that is incorporated by reference in the current specification and,

that was pending at the time the present application was filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Applicant also has amended FIG. 3 so that the signal transmitted to the non-inverting input of amplifier 14 now recites "V_F" (rather than "V_E") in accordance with the specification at page 6, lines 16-20.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the objections to the specification and FIG. 3 be withdrawn.

V. Response to the Objection to Claim 12

The Examiner has objected to claim 12 for containing minor clerical errors.

Applicant has amended claim 12 to indicate that the claim recites a method, rather than a circuit. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claim 12 be withdrawn.

VI. Response to the Rejections of Claims 12-14 and 16-20

The Examiner rejected claims 12-14 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nercessian.

Claims 12-14 and 16-19

Applicant's invention as defined by amended independent claim 12, is directed to a method for controlling an output of a slave supply circuit. The method may include accepting a master signal at a master supply circuit that may vary at a master ramp rate. The method may generate current at the master supply circuit responsive to the master signal and the master supply circuit may inject the generated current into a feedback input terminal of the slave supply circuit. A high

impedance may be presented to the feedback input terminal of the slave supply circuit.

Nercessian discusses a plurality of programmable power supplies that are connected in a manner enabling them to share the load in predetermined ratios. As discussed in Nercessian in connection with FIG. 2, the slave supply 1 includes input terminals 2 and 3. The output of master supply 8 is applied to the input of slave supply 1 at terminal 3 and a feedback signal is returned over lead 27 to input terminal 2 of the slave supply. (Nercessian, FIG. 2, col. 1, lines 69-75, and col. 2, lines 20-30 and lines 55-65.)

The Examiner alleges that Nercessian shows a "generated current by master supply 8 [being] injected to the feedback terminal 2 of the slave supply [1]" (Office Action, p. 3, paragraph 5). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Applicant respectfully submits that Nercessian does not show or suggest injecting the generated current which, according to claim 12 is generated at the master supply circuit in response to the master signal, **into the feedback input terminal of the slave supply circuit.** Instead, Nercessian discusses in connection with FIG. 2, the output of master supply 8 being connected to input terminal 3 of slave supply 1 and a feedback signal being returned over lead 27 to the other input of the slave supply (Nercessian, FIG. 2, col. 1, lines 69-75, and col. 2, lines 20-30 and lines 55-65). Moreover, Nercessian discusses that only input terminal 3 receives the current from master supply 8 and that a feedback current, generated by the slave supply, is provided only to terminal 2 of the slave supply. Therefore, Nercessian does not show or suggest injecting the generated current which, according to

claim 12 is generated at the master supply circuit in response to the master signal, **into the feedback input terminal of the slave supply circuit** as defined by applicant's claim 12.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 12, and any claims that depend, directly or indirectly from claim 12, are allowable.

Claim 20

Applicant's invention as defined by amended independent claim 20, is directed to a method for controlling an output of a power supply in a defined manner. The method may provide a power supply with a feedback terminal and a feedback network coupled between the feedback terminal and an output terminal. The feedback network may present a resistance that may be dynamically changed responsive to a digital input. The digital input may be indicative of a master signal.

The Examiner alleged that Nercessian shows in connection with FIG. 2, dynamically changing the resistance of variable resistor 28 of the feedback network (Office Action, p. 5, paragraph 3).

Applicant respectfully submits that Nercessian does not show or suggest that the resistance of the feedback network is **changed dynamically responsive to a digital input indicative of a master signal**. Instead, Nercessian merely discusses varying the resistance of resistors 13 and 14 in order to vary the output of master supply 8. Nowhere does Nercessian show or suggest that the resistance of resistor 13 or 14 is **changed dynamically responsive to a digital input indicative of a master signal**.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 20 is allowable over Nercessian.

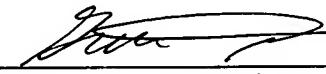
VII. Response to the Objection to Claim 15

Claim 15 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but allowable subject matter was indicated. As shown above claims 12 is allowable. Claims 15 depends, directly or indirectly, from claim 12 and therefore also is allowable.

VIII. Conclusion

The foregoing demonstrates that claims 1-18 and 20 are allowable. This application, as amended, is therefore in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and prompt allowance are accordingly respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachment: Annotated Sheets

Applicant: Daniel Eddleman
Application No.: 10/761,501
Filed: January 20, 2004

For: METHODS AND CIRCUITS FOR TRACKING AND SEQUENCING MULTIPLE POWER SUPPLIES
Agent: Gall C. Gotfried, Reg. No. 58,333

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EV669672807US
Docket No.: LT-170



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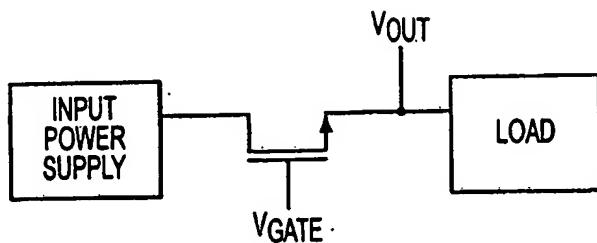


FIG. 1A
(PRIOR ART)

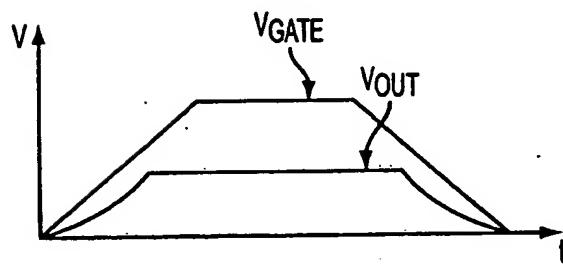


FIG. 1B
(PRIOR ART)

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Annotated Sheet

3/7

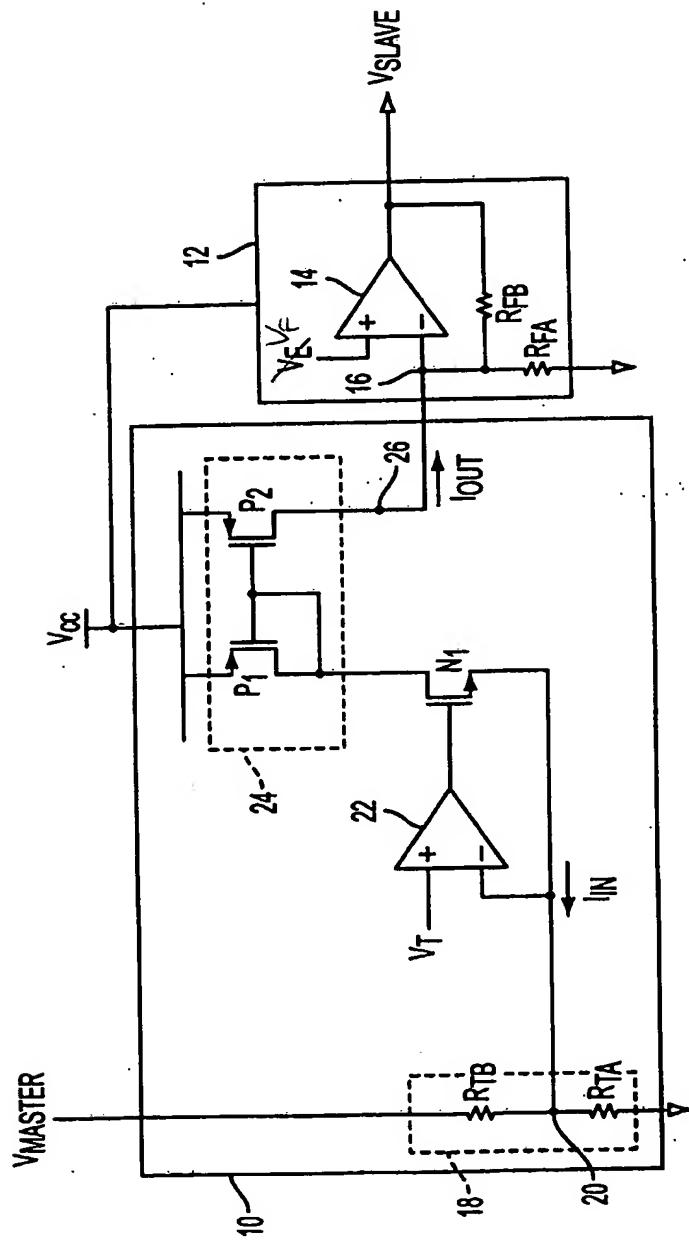


FIG. 3